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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4203
INFO RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUEADWW/WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY BELIZE 0137
RUESBG/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 6407
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 1400
RUESMG/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 1443
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0984
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 5100
RUEHSN/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 1233
RUEHSJ/AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 1763
RUESSD/AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO 1594
RUESTE/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA 1086
RUEHDT/USMISSION USLN NEW YORK 7971
RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0639
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S E C R E T CARACAS 01243

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DEPARTMENT FOR ENDERS
WHITE HOUSE FOR CLARK
CIA FOR DIRECTOR CASEY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OVIP (KIRKPATRICK, JEANE), PREL, XK, US, VE
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK'S DISCUSSION WITH
- VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS, FEBRUARY 11:
- PRESIDENT SUPPORTS HONDURAN PLAN FOR MEETING OF
- CENTRAL AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS
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1. (SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS ASKED AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT REAGAN HIS FULL SUPPORT FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE CONSISTING OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES--GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA--PLUS VENEZUELA, MEXICO, PANAMA, COLOMBIA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (AND WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES). HE MADE A PLEA TO PRESIDENT REAGAN THAT THE U.S. NOT REPEAT NOT TORPEDO THIS INITIATIVE WHICH HE THINKS IS MOST HELPFUL.

3. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK, AMBASSADOR SORZANO, AND AMBASSADOR LANDAU MET FOR AN HOUR WITH PRESIDENT LUIS HERRERA CAMPINS EARLY EVENING OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11. DURING THIS TALK, PRESIDENT HERRERA MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS CONCERNING CENTRAL AMERICA WHICH HE ASKED AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT REAGAN UPON HER RETURN TO WASHINGTON. THESE WERE:

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--VENEZUELA SHARES THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS CRITICAL AND THAT URGENT ACTION MUST BE TAKEN QUICKLY BY ALL CONCERNED STATES TO CHECK THE GROWING INSTABILITY IN THE AREA.

--CONDITIONS MUST BE CREATED SO THAT THE STATES IN THE REGION WHICH HAVE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEMS CAN PRESERVE AND BUILD UPON THOSE ACHIEVEMENTS, AND THAT STATES WHICH ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS CAN HAVE A CHANCE AT SUCCESS.

--HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAZ BARNICA DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO VENEZUELA OUTLINED THE GOH PROPOSAL TO HOLD IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE A MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF HONDURAS, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA, WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF VENEZUELA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, PANAMA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INVITED AS OBSERVERS. THIS MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, OR MORE LIKELY (AND MORE SUITABLY) IN PANAMA.

--THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE AS IT WOULD ALLOW ALL SIDES TO AIR THEIR DIFFERENCES IN THE NEUTRAL TERRITORY OF A DEMOCRATIC STATE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN CENTRAL AMERICA'S DIFFERENCES. VENEZUELA EARLIER HAD TRIED TO HELP DEFUSE TENSIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH CONCERNED STATES, BUT THESE EFFORTS WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL. NOW IT IS TIME TO TURN TO A MULTILATERAL APPROACH.

--VENEZUELA BELIEVES THAT ALL OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE HONDURAN INITIATIVE WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE, WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF NICARAGUA. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT VENEZUELA HAS INVITED BAYARDO ARCE OF NICARAGUA TO MAKE AN URGENT VISIT TO CARACAS NEXT WEEK AFTER THE CARNIVAL HOLIDAYS. THE HOPE IS THAT THROUGH HIM THE GOV CAN CONVINCE THE SANDINISTA JUNTA TO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. IF THE MEETING IS TO BE A SUCCESS, NICARAGUAN PRESENCE IS ESSENTIAL. PRESIDENT HERRERA WANTED THE USG TO KNOW OF THIS TRIP AND THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH BAYARDO ARCE HAD BEEN INVITED.

--THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY THAT CUBA WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, AND NO DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO CUBA.

--PRESIDENT HERRERA WILL BE MAKING A TRIP TO COSTA RICA LATER IN THE MONTH TO DISCUSS THESE AND OTHER ISSUES WITH PRESIDENT MONGE.

4. IN AN IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ZEMBRANO, THE SAME GENERAL POINTS WERE MADE.

5. PRESIDENT HERRERA ASKED AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TO ADVISE PRESIDENT REAGAN OF VENEZUELAN SUPPORT OF THIS HONDURAN INITIATIVE, AND TO EXPRESS HIS HOPE THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND THE USG WILL UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT THE UNITED STATES DO NOTHING "TO TORPEDO" THIS EFFORT. AFTERWARDS, A MEETING AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL OF THE STATES INVOLVED IS BEING CONSIDERED. PRESIDENT HERRERA REPEATEDLY STRESSED HOW CRITICAL THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA IS AT THE MOMENT, AND HOW NECESSARY IT IS FOR THE CONCERNED DEMOCRATIC STATES OF THE REGION TO ACT WITH DISPATCH. UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDING OF THIS IS ESSENTIAL, HE EMPHASIZED. PRESIDENT HERRERA CAMPINS WAS CONFIDENT THAT MEXICO WOULD ATTEND.

6. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT ALL

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OF THE LEADERS SHE MET WITH IN THE FOUR COUNTRIES SHE HAD VISITED IN THE LAST DAYS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED TO HER SIMILAR PREOCCUPATIONS ABOUT THE EXPLOSIVENESS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THAT SHE ALSO WAS CONVINCED THAT URGENT STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION.

7. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK TOLD PRESIDENT HERRERA THAT SHE WOULD CARRY HIS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, AND THAT THE GREATEST WEIGHT WOULD BE GIVEN TO HIS CONCERNS.

8. AMBASSADOR KIRKPATRICK HAS APPROVED THIS MESSAGE.
LANDAU
END OF MESSAGE

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